



Marsha Blackburn

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BLACKBURN TO BUSH: 'JOIN HOUSE CONSERVATIVES IN SEEKING OFFSETS, SPENDING CUTS'

"This is a public demonstration of our dedication to this issue. We're not going away on this matter."

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Representative Marsha Blackburn (TN-7th District) joined several members of the House Republican Study Committee and Chairman Mike Pence (R-IN) today to announce "Operation Offset." The group of House conservatives is encouraging President Bush to join Congress in supporting spending reductions and offsets to fund costs associated with Hurricane Katrina. Each member participating in the announcement offered one offset proposal.

"We seek to put the spending issue front and center," Blackburn said. "A challenge was issued to fiscal conservatives to find offsets and we're answering that challenge. This is a public demonstration of our dedication to this issue. We're not going away on this matter. I've suggested enforcement of our earned income tax credit rules, which would yield us about \$85 billion over ten years. That's real money we could be using to balance this budget and offset Katrina. The Republican Party has an opportunity to reaffirm our position as an advocate for the average taxpayer and we shouldn't waste that chance."

Blackburn's offset proposal would require enforcement of the Earned Income Tax Credit rules. Currently the nation pays out approximately \$9 billion a year to those who do not qualify for the tax credit. Nearly \$85 billion would be saved after enforcement costs were deducted.

Blackburn sent a letter to President Bush on September 15th asking for cuts in non-essential spending in the wake of Katrina. She was joined by twenty House conservatives in her request. The letter cited spending reductions made by Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman during WWII.

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